

PRESBYTERY of MELROSE and PEBBLES

The Presbytery will meet at **Innerleithen Church** on Tuesday 5 November 2019, at 7pm for refreshments and thereafter at 7.30pm for ordinary business.

Victoria Linford, Clerk

Business

1. Constitute
2. Sederunt and Apologies
3. Minutes (pp101-103)
4. Order of Business
5. Presentation of Reader and Students
6. Guild Report
7. Business Committee
8. Presbytery Planning Task Group (draft Presbytery Plan enclosed)
9. Standing Committee Reports
 - (a) Governance (p4)
 - (b) Mission and Service (pp5-8)
 - (c) Property and Stewardship (p9)
10. Treasurer's Report (p10)
11. Intimations
12. Correspondence
13. Adjournment

**[REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED AT 7PM FOR ALL MEMBERS,
WITH THE BUSINESS MEETING BEGINNING AT 7.30PM]**

Business Committee

1. Presbytery agrees the rota for setting up tables/chairs and washing up for Presbytery meetings held at Innerleithen Church (p2).
2. Presbytery notes that the Business Committee has been considering ways to support the Kirk Session and congregation of Channelkirk and Lauder during the sick leave of their minister, and agrees to the appointment of up to two assessor elders for a period of 6 months.
3. Presbytery agrees to set up a new Presbytery Planning Implementation Committee and approves the remit for this committee (p3).
4. Presbytery resolves to appoint Commissioners to the General Assembly (16-22 May 2020). Presbytery notes that its allocation of ministers for 2020 is four (plus an equal number of elders). The ministers of the following charges are asked to confirm to the Clerk by 21 November 2019 their willingness to accept commission, and submit the name of an elder to accompany them: Bowden and Melrose; Carllops l/w Kirkurd and Newlands l/w West Linton: St Andrew's; Maxton and Mertoun l/w Newtown l/w St Boswells. Presbytery notes that the Very Rev David Arnott and the Very Rev Dr Finlay Macdonald are also entitled to attend the General Assembly of 2020; names of two possible additional accompanying elders should be submitted to the Clerk by 21 November 2019.

Intimations

1. Change to Presbytery Year Book: Please note that Rev Rachel Dobie has a new email address - revracheldobie@gmail.com.
2. "Church as a Healing Community": This is an afternoon hosted by the Church of Scotland and the Guild of Health and St Raphael, with an opportunity to hear a little about the work of various resources which promote health, healing and well-being in local communities, and ideas for developing Healthy Healing Hubs in our churches. This will take place in St Andrews and St George's West Church, Edinburgh on 21 November 2019 from 2-5pm, preceding the Dennis Duncan Lecture at 7pm, with a drinks reception at 6.30pm. Michael Harvey will be giving the lecture entitled "The Invitation to Heal".

Correspondence

1. From Church of Scotland Stewardship Department: see enclosed flier for a Money Conference in November 2019 to be held at the Church of Scotland offices.

PRESBYTERY MEETINGS 2019/20
ROTA FOR MEETINGS AT INNERLEITHEN CHURCH

Presbytery members from the allocated congregations below are asked to:

- (a) Put out tables and chairs at the start of the Presbytery meeting;
- (b) Wash up after teas/coffees.

Thank you for your help on this!

October 2019	Earlston
November 2019	Eddleston l/w Peebles: Old
December 2019	Ettrick and Yarrow
February 2020	Galashiels: Old and St Paul's l/w/ Galashiels: St John's
March 2020	Innerleithen Traquair and Walkerburn
May 2020	Lyne and Manor l/w Peebles: St Andrew's Leckie

MELROSE AND PEEBLES PRESBYTERY

REMIT OF NEW PRESBYTERY PLANNING IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

Once the Presbytery has agreed its new Presbytery Plan, and once it has received concurrence from Ministries Council (or successor) and all appeal periods are past, the next steps will be to implement the various adjustments (linkings and unions) provided for in the Presbytery Plan. After that process, congregations will be able to call a new minister where needed.

Under the Appraisal and Adjustment Act 2003, the implementation of adjustments is led by a Presbytery Committee. The Business Committee recommends that, in December, Presbytery forms a new Presbytery Planning Implementation Committee for this purpose.

The remit of the Presbytery Planning Implementation Committee will be as follows:

To be the Presbytery Committee referred to in section 13 of the Appraisal and Adjustment Act 2003, i.e. the committee to which the achievement of adjustments under an agreed Presbytery Plan is remitted. This will include:

- Conferring with local parties (office bearers);
- Seeking the consent of existing ministers where required;
- Negotiating a detailed Basis of Adjustment with the office bearers;
- Liaising with Ministries Council (or successor);
- Arranging for the Basis of Adjustment to be voted on by congregations;
- Presenting the congregational decisions to Presbytery.

Melrose and Peebles Presbytery Governance Committee Report and Deliverances – November 2019

There is presently no activity regarding Parish Appraisal and this will be the case until the new Presbytery Plan is implemented.

There are two local reviews scheduled for next year. These are for Innerleithen, Traquair and Walkerburn and Stow and Heriot. There is one interim review scheduled for next year. It is for Maxton and Mertoun linked with Newtown linked with St Boswells. These will not be undertaken until the second half of 2020 to allow time for the Presbytery Plan to be implemented. Visiting teams will be organised then.

It is proposed that the Inspection of Records takes place at 10.00am on Friday 20th March 2020 in Innerleithen.

There is no progress to report in terms of appointing a Presbytery Safeguarding Contact although a number of avenues are being explored.

Deliverances:

1. Presbytery receives the report.
2. Presbytery agrees to hold the Inspection of Records on Friday 20th March 2020 at 10.00am in Innerleithen Church.
3. Presbytery agrees that next year's local and interim reviews will be held in the second half of 2020.

MELROSE AND PEEBLES PRESBYTERY MISSION AND SERVICE COMMITTEE REPORT – NOVEMBER 2019

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The November report from the Mission and Service Committee sets out the work plan for the following nine months; confirms progress against targets from the previous year and comments on remits delegated to the committee.
- 1.2 Members of the committee deem it important to emphasise here that, while the work of the committee tends to centre on mission and service through elders and members of the Church, the active involvement and role of the ordained minister is crucial to the widening of mission and service through others. In growing a local ministry of all talents parish ministers may need to discuss among themselves how to manage, and balance with current demands, the mentoring, guiding, leading and supporting of church members who indicate an interest in aspects of local ministry. Where possible and appropriate throughout the Mission and Service agenda elders and ministers have been paired, for example, in tutoring and in assessing worship leaders.

2. MISSION

The Role of the Elder - Creating and Developing Discipleship.

- 2.1 The promotion of this topic has been approved by Presbytery primarily through the Learning Opportunities programme. The question addressed by the committee was “How can we ensure promotion of 'must do' attendance at a conversation event and/or the June conference by ministers and at least one elder?” Whilst Presbytery approved of the promotion of discipleship by way of planned learning opportunities, members of the committee recognised that turning approval into attendance might require some encouragement.
- 2.2 The variety of good learning resources, already made available to all, was noted but few seem take advantage of the material. Ministers and elders could be encouraged by Presbytery to use the Resources Section of the Church of Scotland's website and to download the free training material. Not all the present resources need to be sampled first by members of Presbytery. Conversations in Worship and the latest 'Conversations in Discipleship' are easy to organise with congregational groups.
- 2.3 Members of the committee agreed that no matter how stimulating a training course, it is difficult for any one individual to motivate their Kirk Session or congregation.
- 2.4 The Mission and Service Committee seek to confirm the benefits of meeting in conversation to promote local use of the resource material and to reaffirm discipleship as the central theme of our June 2020 'Away Day'.

Children and Young People.

- 2.5 We all recognise that young people do not attend church because they are deflected by competing sport activities; so, why not take our ministry to the sports gatherings by way of a 'sports ministry'?
- 2.6 However, where are the good examples of church services and church led opportunities for young people that we could build upon across our own Presbytery? Do we need to consider a new approach to worship and the Gospel that might attract young adults to attend church services and church led activities?
- 2.7 How might we promote participation in the wider role of the church by involving young people in decision-making and through organising/speaking at the annual Burns Supper? Art displays by adults are popular – where are the art displays and competitions for young people. Can we take a lead here through a Presbytery wide art (or The Arts) competition with a religious theme?

- 2.8 How might we follow up on young people's awareness of climate change and eco-issues? Promoting or recognising their involvement in gardening, greenhouse activities, tree-planting and town 'tidy-ups' could be followed by a church party!!
- 2.9 To develop thinking on the above and other ideas the committee propose discussion within Presbytery on the idea of a Presbytery/Moderator's competition in The Arts.

World Mission.

- 2.10 Twinning: The World Mission Group Convener reported to Presbytery in October on progress towards signing a new Memorandum of Understanding with Zomba Presbytery and on arrangements for the October visit to Malawi by our nine strong representations. A follow up report on both items will be placed before Presbytery in December.
- 2.11 Middle East: A member of the World Mission Group is to write an article on the Syria visit and the situation pertaining there. Members of Presbytery and asked to keep our friends in Syria in their prayers and to encourage others also to pray for the people of Syria,
- 2.12 The Promotion of Parish Twinning: Twinning will be addressed during the annual meeting of congregational representatives and the mailings each 'Rep' is receiving from the Church of Scotland World Mission Council.
- 2.13 The World Mission Group agreed that the real challenge is getting 'time' on a Sunday morning during the Service to keep the Congregation informed and enthused about Twinning. The work done through Innerleithen, Traquair and Walkerburn to widen involvement out with the Church to those in the wider community should be shared more fully with other Congregations.
- 2.14 24th of the Month Service: It was agreed that having held one such service as part of the Presbytery October 'Away Day', not to pursue a further service in the meantime.

3. SERVICE

- 3.1 The Mission and Service Committee consider that the planned programme of learning opportunities offers a pathway to mission through service - a 'Ministry of all Talents.'
- 3.2 When planning the range of learning opportunities for elders and members of the church the Committee were mindful of their responsibility to ensure that the programme accommodated opportunities to meet the professional development of Ministers, Readers, Deacons, Ministry Development staff and students in training for the recognised ministries of the Church.
- 3.3 Presbyters and Kirk Sessions were invited on a number of occasions to offer comment and suggestion on improving the content of the learning programme with a deadline date of 23 October. A request was made also for possible tutors. The Mission and Service Committee are indebted to the three people, not part of the committee, who offered positive and constructive comment on the proposed programme.
- 3.4 Informal evaluation of the course for Worship Leaders was conducted at the close of the current workshops with former course members, potential tutors and assessors present. This very constructive and helpful contribution produced an innovative, self-sufficient programme of learning opportunities for worship leaders including an introductory conversation on leading worship and the nature of formal courses; a series of optional workshops and assessment, perhaps at more than one level, developing worship planning through reflective practice, modules on church seasons and festivals and access to national and other opportunities out with Melrose and Peebles.
- 3.5 The notion of a Presbytery Learning Centre, including in due course a digital and distance learning base, was discussed within committee without a decision on the principle and practicalities yet reached. Discussion centred on a convenient base, infrastructure, regularity of courses/workshops, set up grants, evening and daytime opportunities, open access to resources. It is suggested that establishing such a base might be worthy of discussion across Presbytery.

- 3.6 While Innerleithen Church provides a central and welcoming facility for Presbytery led courses it would be sensible to set a venue for any specific course that would be most suitable to those who plan to attend the course. Similarly, courses and conversations repeated on an evening/daytime/ weekend basis may accommodate greater attendance.

4. REMITS

- 4.1 As required by the General Assembly the Convener seeks to familiarise the committee on the Code of Professional Practice and Good Conduct. All serving across Presbytery through the recognised ministries of the church and all paid employees in parish appointments (as defined in section 16(1) of Act VII 2003) are instructed to familiarise themselves with the Code.
- 4.2 Proposals for the payment of Ordained Local Ministers and Auxiliary Ministers were noted as an instruction to Kirk Sessions to implement the proposals agreed by the General Assembly.
- 4.3 The invitation from the General Assembly to “explore the feasibility of ideas emerging from the national Worship Audit – specifically a worship resource bank; local worship events; sharing best practice; signposting existing resources; and the development of training resources in response to any identified gaps in current Presbytery provision” is under active consideration as part of the our Presbytery Programme of Learning Opportunities; as is, “the creation of a single easy access platform of faith and nurture resources; a flexible education, training and support programme for each person in the Church including material on discipleship and leadership”. Initiatives to help the Church to engage with those aged 40 and under remain under early consideration by the committee, as indicated in 2.5 – 2.9 above.
- 4.4 The Presbytery Learning Programme will address specific learning needs recognised by the General Assembly as “support at a regional/local level to congregations including 1) buildings expertise 2) safeguarding 3) financial accounting 4) local staff employment 5) developing effective partnerships”. In addition our Presbytery Programme will include Learning Opportunities in Assessing Worship Leaders, Developing Ministry with Children and Young People, School Chaplaincy, Moderating Kirk Sessions and Interim Moderators, Conducting Funeral, Pastoral Care, the Role of the Elder, administration and annual conferences.
- 4.5 Presbytery recognised the importance of the development of learning opportunities for elders and others in order to give service through the mission of the church and aspects of ministry. However, there is a potential cost to those who choose to attend local and national courses. It is proposed, therefore, that the criteria for access to the Presbytery ‘Study Fund’ be extended to accommodate those who are not Ordained Ministers. It is further proposed that the Property and Stewardship Committee consider the need or otherwise to increase the funds currently available through the ‘Study Fund’ to accommodate any additional costs arising from the proposal to extend the purpose of the ‘Study Fund’; the Finance and Stewardship Committee to determine the criteria for application and to review these arrangements in 2022.

5. STUDY LEAVE

- 5.1 The Rev. Margaret Steele applied successfully to the national fund for support in order to attend a Renewing Ministries Conference from 24th February to 1st March 2020. Ministries Council have approved this application to the National Study Leave Scheme with funding. All arrangements for parish cover are in place.

6. DELIVERANCE

- 6.1 Presbytery receives the report.
- 6.2 Presbytery confirms the benefits of meeting in local conversation and through the use of the resource material encourages ministers to facilitate conversations in discipleship which lead to active local mission.

- 6.3 Presbytery reaffirms the central theme of the June 2020 'Away Day' as 'Creating and Developing Discipleship'.
- 6.4 Presbytery supports the Mission and Service Committee in developing plans and projects to promote participation by children and young adults in the life of the church.
- 6.5 Presbytery notes that the Presbytery 'Guide to Learning Opportunities' will be available at the December meeting of Presbytery.
- 6.6 Presbytery invites the Business Committee to accommodate an opportunity during a meeting of Presbytery to discuss and decide on the notion of establishing a Presbytery Learning Centre as described in paras. 3.5 and 3.6 above.
- 6.7 Presbytery agrees (a) that the criteria for access to the Presbytery 'Study Fund' be extended to accommodate those who are not Ordained Ministers; (b) that the Property and Stewardship Committee consider the need or otherwise to increase the funds currently available through the 'Study Fund' to accommodate any additional costs arising from the proposal to extend the 'Study Fund' criteria; and (c) the Property and Stewardship Committee determine the criteria for application and review these arrangements in 2022.
- 6.8 Presbytery notes progress made in meeting specific remits.
- 6.9 Presbytery approves the absence from her parish from 24th February 2020 until 1st March 2020 to facilitate the Rev. Margaret Steele's successful application for National Study Leave.

Property and Stewardship Committee Report for Presbytery 5th November 2019

The Property and Stewardship Committee met on 1st October 2019 to discuss the applications that had been received for rebates from Ministries and Mission payments.

Before considering new applications it was agreed to recommend that the £5,500 paid by Maxton and Mertoun, linked with Newtown, linked with St Boswells for a Reader should again be rebated to St Boswells. In addition £5,000 is recommended to be rebated to Selkirk to help cover the cost of their youth worker.

Considering the new applications, the Committee recommends to Presbytery a rebate of Ministries and Mission payments of a total of £430 to Old and St Paul's Galashiels to cover the cost of catering for the Missionary Dinner.

The Committee further recommends a rebate of £350 to Skirling Kirk to cover the cost of removing three pews and creating an area for coffee before the service and for children during the service.

Also recommended is a rebate of £3,000 to Peebles: St Andrew's Leckie towards the cost of providing counselling services. Additional requests from St Andrew's Leckie involving spending on property require further consultation.

Finally a commitment was given to Stow and Heriot to rebate sufficient to cover any shortfall in funding for congregation members travelling out to Malawi up to a maximum of £1,000.

There is still room for more rebates to be made and further applications, to be recommended to Presbytery in March are welcomed.

Deliverance:

1. Presbytery receives the report.
2. Presbytery agrees to continue into 2020 rebates of £5,500 to St Boswells and £5,000 to Selkirk.
3. Presbytery agrees a rebate of £430 to Old and St Paul's Galashiels.
4. Presbytery agrees a rebate of £350 to Skirling Parish Kirk.
5. Presbytery agrees a rebate of £3,000 to Peebles: St Andrew's Leckie.
6. Presbytery encourages congregations to consider applying for Ministry and Mission rebates to further their mission.

Treasurer's Report

Presbytery – 5 November 2019

To bring the matter of bank/cheque signatories up to date, Presbytery is asked to approve the following:

- a) To remove Grahame Henderson's name from the list of alternate signatories;
- b) To allow the Treasurer **or** the Clerk to sign cheques or make bank transfers up to the value of £2,500; for amounts above that limit, both signatures will be required.

In effect this means that the Treasurer will remain the signatory in most instances but it places a limit for larger sums and also provides for a "back up" in case of emergency.

Deliverance:

1. Presbytery receives the report.
2. Presbytery agrees to remove Grahame Henderson's name from the list of alternate signatories for the purposes of operating the Presbytery bank account and the signing of cheques.
3. Presbytery agrees to allow the Treasurer **or** the Clerk to sign cheques or make bank transfers up to the value of £2,500; for amounts above that limit, both signatures will be required.

